

**WE ARE PHIL**

# Meet Ron and Sue Sylvester

The couple that  
plays together

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Plymouth Philharmonic trumpeter Ron Sylvester and violinist Sue Sylvester have been playing together for years. We asked them a few questions about the secret of their success and why the Plymouth Philharmonic is such an important part of their lives.

## HOW DID YOU MEET?

"We met at Ithaca College School of Music while working on our Music Education degrees and playing in the same orchestra. Music really does bring people together."

## WHY DID YOU CHOSE THE INSTRUMENTS YOU PLAY?

Sue: "My aunt played the classical violin and I wanted to be like her and be able to play in the family string group during the

holidays. So in fourth grade I started to learn the violin. I love the sonority and expressiveness of the violin."

Ron: "My grandfather and father were doctors, but all I ever wanted to do was play trumpet. It felt very natural from the first day I picked it up, and my parents were very supportive of my musical interests."

## WHAT DO YOU LOVE TO DO TOGETHER IN YOUR FREE TIME? WHAT DO ENJOY DOING ON YOUR OWN?

"We love to use our boat on Buzzards Bay in the summer when we are at our cottage. We enjoy spending time with our family, and playing with our new granddaughter. Both of us recently retired from teaching after 37 years in public schools. Sue in Duxbury and Ron at Silver Lake Regional."

Sue - "I love to garden, bird-watch, cook and knit when I'm not teaching violin and viola privately or performing with the Mayflower String Quartet. The best fun of all is playing with our

8-month-old granddaughter, Moira."

Ron - "I teach privately and stay active performing on trumpet. I also enjoy setting up and using my basement wood shop."

## WHAT IS THE BIGGEST MISCONCEPTION ABOUT MUSICIANS LIKE YOU?

"People who are not musicians may not realize how much training, practice, time and effort it takes to prepare what the audience hears. It's a lifelong commitment."

## WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT PLAYING MUSIC WITH THE PHIL?

"We love playing great literature from the past and present, selected each season by our conductor, Steven Karidoyanes. We are fortunate to be able to share the musical experience together at each concert. The Plymouth Philharmonic is musically challenging and exciting for us, and we feel lucky to have this high-quality ensemble

in the local area."

Sue - "I've played with the PPO since 1976, and I'm happy to see it evolve musically and continue

to appeal to enthusiastic, appreciative audiences of all ages." Ron - "I've been with the orchestra since the mid-1980s, when I

stopped conducting the Metropolitan Wind Symphony and became more involved with orchestral music."



**Ron Sylvester plays the trumpet, and his wife, Sue Sylvester, plays the violin in the Plymouth Philharmonic.** STAFF PHOTO/EMILY CLARK